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From: (b) (6) </o=va/ou=exchange  
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To: Leinenkugel, Jake </o=va/ou=exchange  
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Bcc:  
Subject: FW: VA Stories of Note: January 26 - February 2, 2018  
Date: Fri Feb 02 2018 17:09:37 CST  
Attachments:

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Thought you'd like this story!!

Thanks so much for joining us in Orlando—your presence really meant a lot to people.

Yours,

(b) (6)

National Director  
Integrative Health Coordinating Center  
Veterans Health Administration

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From: (b) (6)  
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:31:11 PM  
To: VHA OPCC&CT All Staff  
Cc: (b) (6)  
Subject: FW: VA Stories of Note: January 26 - February 2, 2018

BFA in the VA Stories of note for this week:

Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, Fla.), Jan. 29: Jacksonville VA clinic offers Battlefield Acupuncture as opioid alternative The procedure, called Battlefield Acupuncture, was developed in 2001 by retired Air Force Col. Richard Niemtow in an effort to quickly relieve pain for military personnel in the field and as an alternative to traditional treatments. The gold-plated needles are about 2 millimeters long and easily fit in combat pockets.

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From: US Department of Veterans Affairs  
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 3:50 PM  
To: VAAIUsers  
Subject: VA Stories of Note: January 26 - February 2, 2018

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

VA Stories of Note: January 26 – February 2, 2018

CRTV (Video) (Las Vegas, Nev.), Jan. 26: VA Secretary Shulkin reveals the inside scoop on Trump's promise to veterans | White House Brief The Department of Veterans Affairs embroiled itself in scandal after scandal, revealing major corruption and inefficiencies that cost the lives of some of our nation's most valuable. Trump promised a top priority would be to fix the department and provide the best care and resources to our veterans. Jon Miller sits down with Secretary David Shulkin to discuss how the Trump administration is reshaping the department to deliver on this important promise.

WJLA (Sinclair Broadcast Group, Video) (Bristol, Va.), Jan. 26: Secretary of Veterans Affairs helps count homeless veterans in DC Every year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development counts the number of homeless veterans nationally. The tally also helps identify the number of veterans without permanent housing. On a single night last January, 40,000 vets were counted.

WFED (AM-1500, Audio), Jan. 26: Isakson: Shulkin 'catalytic force for more accountability' at VA Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin has been on a mission to reform the VA. His efforts range from increasing accountability and authority to fire bad actors and poor performers to moving toward interoperability of health care records with the Defense Department, among various other initiatives. But he wouldn't be able to get near as much done without some key allies in Congress.

Military Times, Jan. 31: VA backs Trump's State of the Union comments about accountability law's impact — In his first State of the Union speech Tuesday, President Donald Trump boasted that his administration has begun cleaning up the Department of Veterans Affairs by getting rid of problematic workers thanks to new accountability legislation passed by Congress last summer. During the address, Trump said that his administration's actions over the last year have shown that "we are serving our brave veterans, including giving our veterans choice in their health care decisions."

Army Times, Feb. 1: Soldier of the Year's suicide-prevention app logs more than 2,600 connections An app that links struggling troops and veterans with people who can help them has been used more than 2,600 times. The Objective Zero Foundation connects members of the military community with ambassadors — people trained to assist someone with depression or suicidal thoughts — and with resources that provide help.

KATV (ABC-7, Video) (Little Rock, Ark.), Jan. 30: WWII veteran honored during presentation at VA Hospital in Little Rock A World War II veteran shared stories of fighting in Okinawa and other life experiences while being honored at the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock on Tuesday. Marvin Hill said he has always worked hard. "I always worked," said Hill. "If I got 50 cents a day for 10 hours, I worked. If I got \$10 I worked."

Stars and Stripes, Jan. 29: VA resumes online applications for new ID cards Veterans can again submit online applications for new identification cards through the Department of Veterans Affairs website after the system was taken down in December following rollout problems. The purpose of the identification cards is to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry around their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information.

Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, Fla.), Jan. 29: Jacksonville VA clinic offers Battlefield Acupuncture as opioid alternative The procedure, called Battlefield Acupuncture, was developed in 2001 by retired Air Force Col. Richard Niemtzw in an effort to quickly relieve pain for military personnel in the field and as an alternative to traditional treatments. The gold-plated needles are about 2 millimeters long and

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easily fit in combat pockets.

KVPR (NPR-89.3) (Fresno, Calif.), Jan. 29: VA Expands Programs To Target Suicide The Veterans Health Administration has tried a number of ideas to drive down the suicide rate among veterans. The VA is about to start automatically enrolling most new veterans in mental health care, starting in March. People who work with veterans say the program, mandated by an executive order from the White House, is a great idea, but they worry about the impact on an already strained system.

FOX News (Video), Jan. 26: Whatever happened to the veterans health care reforms? This three-minute video reports that the Phoenix VA hospital was ranked as one of the worst in the country in 2017 despite the director touting a dramatic drop in patient wait times.

Military Times, Jan. 26: DOD, VA team up on new tool to help with 'bad paper' upgrade applications Veterans Affairs and Defense officials this week released new online help for veterans applying for a discharge upgrade, the latest in a series of outreach efforts to so-called "bad paper" veterans who may have been unfairly deprived of federal benefits.

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